

SPECIFICATION

SYSTEM AND METHOD OF ARRANGING DELIVERY OF ADVERTISEMENTS OVER A NETWORK SUCH AS THE INTERNET

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention is directed to a system and method of arranging delivery of advertisements over a network such as the Internet.

10 Background Art

There have been proposed prior systems and methods of arranging the advertisement over the Internet between advertisers and media owners. The methods offer to the advertisers to buy ad space of the media owners on a pay-per-click or a pay-per-action basis. The Internet advertisement carries a vast number of different campaigns that attract prospective Internet users in different ways or expect different user's action. So, the advertisers and the media owners are looking for the measure for effectiveness of the campaign over the Internet which is not simply relying upon the cost –per-click or cost-per-action. In view of the above potential demands of the advertisers, the inventors have sought to provide a consistent scheme which enables an agent to arrange the advertisement between the advertisers and the media owners with optimized conditions beneficial to the both parties.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 The present invention has been accomplished to present a unique method and system which is capable of arranging the advertisement in such a manner as to satisfy varying requirements of the advertisers for effective return from the advertisements, which is therefore a primary object of the present invention. The system in accordance with the present invention includes an agent's server

provided with an invitation module, an offer module, and an arrangement module.

The invitation module is programmed to provide an invitation page on the network for inviting potential advertisers having an advertiser's own web site to place an intended advertisement on the network media. The invitation page

- 5 includes a condition form for entry of specific conditions that the advertiser requests for the proposed advertisement. The condition form has a selection box listing defined responses expected to be made by a prospective user as a consequence of the advertisement so that the advertiser can select at the selection box one or more of the responses to be included in the conditions.
- 10 Also, the condition form has a cost per response entry to be entered by the advertiser as indicating a unit cost payable for each response selected.

The offer module is programmed to, based on a reply from the advertisers, makes an ad schedule listing the intended advertisements with the specific conditions. The offer module provides an offer page which discloses the ad

- 15 schedule over the network to a potential media owner or affiliate having a network medium so that the affiliate can determine whether or not to place the advertisement on an ad space of the network media in agreement on the specific conditions prescribed in the ad schedule. The offer page includes an agreement entry which instructs the affiliate to enter an acceptance for selling the ad space
- 20 for the advertisement.

The arrangement module is programmed to make an advertisement contract between the advertiser and the affiliate upon receipt of the acceptance only from the affiliate, and allocates the advertiser's web site to the ad space of the network media placing the advertisement thereon.

- 25 The agent's server includes a response measurement module which is programmed to count the number of specific responses made at the advertiser's web site through the ad space. Further, included in the server is an administration module which is programmed to provide a statistical report over the Internet for furnishing the advertiser with an analysis of the responses being

counted so that the advertiser can estimate the effectiveness of the advertisement.

Accordingly, it is possible with this system to select an optimum response expected by the user which is effective for the advertisement and beneficial to the
5 affiliate. In addition, any suitable combination of the responses can be selected for consistent with varying interests of the advertisers.

The specifically defined responses includes visiting the advertiser's web site; downloading a file or software from the advertiser's web site; applying for a prize offered by the advertiser on the advertiser's web site; answering to a
10 questionnaire from the advertiser on the web site; requesting a catalogue from the advertiser through the advertiser's web site; requesting subscription to a newsletter; signing up a membership of a club managed on the advertiser's web site; and ordering a product or service on the advertiser's web site.

The system is specifically adapted for the advertiser's web site which
15 includes an entrance page destined from the ad space for guiding the user first, an action page designated in the entrance page and requiring entry of information or reply by the user before requesting a result of the specified response, and an action process module which responds to the specific response for processing the same. In association with these pages and module, the
20 measurement module is configured to have an index CGI, an action CGI, and a result CGI. The arrangement module prepares an index URL, an action URL, and a result URL upon establishment of the advertisement contract in order to make a definite interrelation of the pages and the module of the advertiser's web site with the agent's server for collecting data and counts of the specific
25 responses for each of the advertisements.

The index URL, which identifies a URL of the index CGI and includes an ad code assigned to the advertisement, is embedded in the ad space for linking the ad space to the index CGI. The action URL identifies a URL of the action CGI and is embedded in the entrance page for linking the entrance page to the action

CGI. The result URL identifies a URL of the result CGI and is embedded in the action page for linking the action page to the action CGI.

The index CGI is also linked to an index log file which stores index data with regard to the user requesting access to the entrance page. The index data include:

- 1) date and time of the user requesting for access to the entrance page;
- 2) a referrer log showing data of at least the ad space from which the user makes the request for access to the entrance page of the advertiser's web site; and
- 3) the ad code.

The arrangement module also functions to locate an entrance page URL of the entrance page based upon the ad cod received at the index CGI by reference to a database table storing various ad codes in relation to various entrance page URLs. The arrangement module passes the located entrance page URL to the index CGI which responds to redirect the user's request made at the ad space to the entrance page immediately after storing the index data in the index log file.

The action CGI is also linked to an action log file which stores action access data with regard to the user requesting for access to the action page. The action access data includes:

- 1) date and time of the user requesting for access to the action page; and
- 2) a referrer log showing data of at least the ad space from which the user is led to the action page.

The arrangement module functions to locate an action page URL of the action page by collation of the data of the ad space received at the index CGI with data of the ad space received at the action CGI and by reference to the table storing the various ad codes in relation to various action page URLs. The arrangement module then passes thus located action page URL to the action CGI which responds to redirect the user's request at the entrance page to the action page immediately after storing the action access data in the action log file.

The result CGI is also linked to a result log file which stores action process

data with regard to the user requesting the processing at the action process module. The action process data include:

- 1) date and time of the user requesting an access to the action process module; and
- 5 2) a referrer log showing data of at least the ad space from which the user is led to the action process module.

The arrangement module locates an action process URL of the action page by collation of the data of the ad space received at the index CGI with data of the ad space received at the result CGI and by reference to the table storing the

- 10 various ad codes in relation to various action process URLs. Then, the arrangement module passes thus located particular action process URL to the result CGI which responds to redirect the user's request at the action page to the action process module immediately after storing the action process data in the result log file.

- 15 Thus, it is readily possible to correlate the particular advertisement to the entrance page, the action page and the action process page of the associated advertiser's web sites for obtaining statistical data for each advertisement with regard to the number of the accesses to the entrance page, the number of the access to the action page, and the number of requesting for the action process.

- 20 The present invention also provides a unique method comprising the following steps of:

- 25 providing an invitation page over the network for inviting potential advertisers each having an advertiser's web site to place an advertisement on the network with a condition form to specify conditions for the advertisement, the condition form having a list of defined responses expected to be made by a prospective network user in reply to the advertisement so that the advertiser can select at least one of the responses to be included in the conditions, the condition form having a cost per response entry to be filled by the advertiser as indicating a unit cost payable for the response selected, and having a media entry for

designating a desired network media on which the advertisement is intended to be placed on;

receiving a reply to the invitation page from the advertiser and making therefrom an ad schedule with specific conditions for the advertisement;

- 5 providing an offer page which discloses the ad schedule on the network to a potential affiliate administering a network medium so that the affiliate can determine to place the advertisement on an ad space of the network media in agreement on the specific conditions mentioned in the ad schedule, the offer page including an agreement entry which instructs the affiliate to enter an acceptance for selling the ad space to the advertiser;

establishing an advertisement contract between the advertiser and the affiliate immediately upon receipt of the acceptance and delivering a confirmation of the contract to the advertiser and the affiliate;

- 10 allocating the advertiser's web site to the ad space in the network media
- 15 placing the advertisement in order to count the number of the responses made through the ad space to the advertiser's web site during a predetermined period of time; and

- 20 delivering data of the responses counted over the network for access by the advertiser as well as by the affiliate so that the advertiser can evaluate the effect of the advertisement and that the affiliate can charge the advertiser for the advertisement based upon the data.

Thus, the matching of the advertiser with the affiliate can be easy to accomplished on the network, and the advertisement contract can be made simply at the discretion of the affiliate for prompting the advertisement.

- 25 These and still other objects and advantageous features of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiment when taken in conjunction with the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a system of arranging the delivery of advertisements over a network in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is another block diagram illustrating the above system;

5 FIG. 3 is a view of an invitation page utilized in the above system;

FIG. 4 is a view of an offer page utilized in the above system;

FIG. 5 is a view of a part of the offer page;

FIG. 6 is a view of an administer page for an advertiser utilized in the above system;

10 FIG. 7 is a view of a statistical report issued to the advertiser;

FIG. 8 is a view of an administer page for an affiliate utilized in the above system;
and

FIG. 9 is a view of a statistical report issued to the affiliate;

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENT

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a system of arranging the delivery of advertisements over a network in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

The system is managed by an agent having an agent's server 10 for arranging the delivery of the advertisements intended by advertisers over the

20 network such as the Internet to media owners, i.e., potential affiliates having their own network medium such as a mailing magazine, an opt-in mailing service, a web-site or any other network media affording ad spaces 201, i.e., spaces for sale for advertisement such as an add expression and an ad banner. The advertiser is defined to have its own web site where the network users can

25 access for obtaining information about services and products of the advertiser.

The server 10 communicates over the network with the advertisers as well as with the affiliates so that the affiliate can determine whether or not to place the intended advertisement on its network media.

The advertisers and the affiliates are limited to those who have already

registered with the system and are given therefrom individual IDs and passwords for access to the system. At the registration, the advertisers and the affiliates are requested to provide their corporate details to a registration page 11 on a web site provided by the server 10. Based upon the details thus provided, the
5 agent's server 10 prepares groups of the registered advertisers and affiliates with whom the server 10 communicates over the network.

In order to make a matching of the advertisers' proposals with the affiliates' interest, the agent's server 10 collects requests for different advertisements and offers the advertisers' requests to the affiliates. For this purpose, the agent's
10 server 10 includes an invitation module 12 which provides on its web site an invitation page 20 for access by the advertisers and an offer page 40 for access by the affiliates. The invitation page 20 collects conditions for placement of an intended advertisement with respect to a particular campaign by the advertiser and other information requested by the advertiser for the campaign.

15 The conditions include a selection of one or more from defined responses expected by the network users as a consequence of the advertisement and a cost per response payable to the affiliate. The defined responses are
1) visiting or clicking through the advertiser's web site;
2) downloading a file or software from the advertiser's web site;
20 3) applying for a prize offered by the advertiser on the advertiser's web site;
4) answering a questionnaire from the advertiser;
5) requesting a catalog from the advertiser through the advertiser's web site;
6) requesting subscription to a newsletter from the advertiser's web site;
7) signing up for a membership of a club managed on the advertiser's web site;
25 8) ordering a product or service at the advertiser's web site; and
9) any other positive action that requires a reaction from the advertiser.
The information includes, for example,
i) campaign objective;
ii) maximum counts of response per a predetermined period of time;

- iii) category of target network users;
- iv) desired media;
- v) requested advertising period
- vi) advertising content
- 5 vii) URL of the advertiser's web site.

The above conditions and information are entered by the advertisers on the invitation page **20**, one exemplary format of which is shown in FIG. 3. The page includes a name entry **21** for the name of the advertiser, a campaign entry **22** for a campaign objective, a campaign period entry **23** for starting and ending date of
10 the campaign, a selection box **24** for selection of defined responses, an entry **27** for the number of maximum responses per month to be paid for, an entry **28** for category of target group, a designation box **29** for designation of desired affiliate, a layout entry **31** for text and image of the advertisement, and a URL entry **32** for URL of the advertiser's web site to be linked to the advertisement. The
15 selection box **24** lists the defined responses each associated with checkbox **25** and a cost per response entry **26** so that the advertiser can select one or more of the responses by simply marking the corresponding checkbox and inputting a bid at the cost per response. At the designation box **29**, the advertiser is prompted to select the individual medium or all of the listed media by simply checking the
20 corresponding checkboxes **30**.

Upon completion of the invitation page **20** by the advertiser, the agent's server **10** responds to create a campaign code of six upper-case letters. First three letters of the campaign code are chosen to identify the advertiser's name, and the last three letters are chosen to identify a particular product or service of
25 the advertisers. For instance, campaign code of "ABCXYZ" indicates the advertisement by the advertiser having a corporate code of "ABC" for the particular product or service assigned to a brand code "XYZ". Thus, different campaigns by the same advertiser can be well discriminated from each other in the system. The corporate code of the advertiser is assigned to the advertiser

at the time of subscription to the system, while the brand code is assigned each time of completing the invitation page 20.

The conditions and information provided by the advertisers are received at an offer module 13 in the server 10 to make up the offer pages 40 listing the

5 intended advertisements for the advertiser. The offer pages 40 are prepared for the different affiliates designated. The individual offer pages 40 are placed on the agent's web site so that the designated affiliates can access only to the corresponding offer pages 40 prepared for that affiliates. One example of the offer page 40 is shown in FIG. 4 which includes a list 41 of the intended
10 advertisements designating the affiliate allowed to access this page. The list includes the advertiser's name, campaign objects, cost per response, and an expected sales which is obtained from analysis of previous statistical data accumulated in the agent's server 10. When no relevant statistical data is available, the expected sales is left blank. The offer page 40 includes an entry
15 42 for further review of the details of the intended advertisement and a detailed information page 50. By putting a corresponding listing number into the entry 42, a display is jumped to the detailed information page 50 which, as shown in FIG. 5, reproduces the invitation page 30 and includes an agreement section 51 with entries 52, 53, and 54 for prompting entries of date (yyyy/mm/dd), type of the ad
20 space 201 prepared for the advertisement, and an affiliate code assigned to the affiliate at the time of subscription to the system. The type of the ad space is designated by an ad space code of 3 upper-case letters chosen from a table included in a manual delivered to the affiliate at the time of subscription to the system. The table shown below is one example for the ad space code.

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Ad space code	Designation
HTA	Header text Advertisement (Mail magazine)
TWT	Top page of Web site in Text format
CWB	at Category of Web site in Banner format

The offer page **40** and the information page **50** provide sufficient information so that the affiliate can decide, in consideration of the information together with the user's demographics of the affiliate's medium, which ad space **201** to place the advertisement. When the affiliate accepts the conditions proposed by the 5 advertiser through the offer page **40**, the affiliate is only required to complete the agreement section **51**. The reply from the offer page **40** is then sent back to arrangement module **14** of the agent's server **10**, which responds to establish an advertisement contract between the affiliate and the advertiser, and delivers a confirmation notice of the contract to the advertiser and the affiliate by way of 10 e-mail. The confirmation notice includes an actual period between starting and ending the placement of the advertisement on the ad space **201** and a media indicator. The media indicator indicates the type of network media, such as the mailing magazine, the opt-in mailing service, the web-site and the like affording the ad spaces. For example, the mailing magazine is designated by a letter of 15 'M', the opt-in mailing service is by a letter of 'O', and the web-site is by a letter of 'W'. These letters are assigned to the corresponding media and acknowledged by the agent's server when the affiliates makes registration to the system.

The arrangement module **14** creates an ad placement identification code (APID), upon completion of the agreement section **51** by the affiliate, for 20 identification of the particular advertisement campaign and the affiliate placing the advertisement. The APID includes a media code plus a period code and the campaign code. The media code is composed of the single letter indicative of the type of the media, plus the affiliate code and the ad space code, while the period code is defined by 8-digits numerals for indication of starting and ending 25 the advertisement. That is, the APID of "MXXXHTA11101120ABCXYZ" indicates that

the media type is the mail magazine by the first letter of 'M';
the media name is represented by the media code of "XXX" of the subsequent 3 letters;

the ad space type is represented by the ad space code "HTA" of the subsequent 3 letters;

the starting date of advertisement is November 10 by the subsequent 4 digits "1110";

5 the ending date of advertisement is November 20 by the subsequent 4 digits "1120";

the advertiser's name is represented by the corporate code of "ABC" of the subsequent 3 letters; and

the brand or service is represented by the brand code of "XYZ" of the last 3

10 letters.

Likewise, APID of "WYYYTWT11101120ABCXYZ" indicates the same advertisement campaign for the same period but at the different ad space of the different affiliate, i.e., at the ad space represented by "TWT" sold by the affiliate whose name is represented by the affiliate code "YYY".

15 The APID thus created is stored in a database table **15** in the server **10** for administration of the advertisement campaign by the agent. In an exact sense, the advertisement contract is deemed to be established at this time of storing the APID in the database.

Then, the arrangement module **14** allocates the ad space **201** to defined
20 pages of the advertiser's web site through the agent's server **10**. The defined pages are an entrance page **101** which is initially visited by the user from the ad space **201** and an action page **102** which induces the user's response selected by the advertiser to be paid for.

The following description illustrates a case where the advertisers exclude the
25 user's response of mere visiting the entrance page from the response to be paid for. That is, the defined responses to be paid for are limited to:

- 1) downloading a file or software from the advertiser's web site;
- 2) applying for a prize offered by the advertiser on the advertiser's web site;
- 3) answering a questionnaire from the advertiser;

- 4) requesting a catalog from the advertiser through the advertiser's web site;
- 5) requesting subscription to a newsletter from the advertiser's web site;
- 6) signing up for a membership of a club managed on the advertiser's web site;
- 7) ordering a product or service at the advertiser's web site; and
- 5 8) any other positive action that requires a reaction from the advertiser.

In this sense, the action page 102 includes an action prompt proposing the defined responses selected from the above. Accordingly, in the following description, the term "action" refers to the response selected by the advertiser to be paid for in order to exclude a simple user's response of visiting the entrance 10 page from the user's positive actions which necessitates the advertiser to answer the action and for which the cost is paid. The advertiser's web site further includes an action process CGI (common gateway interface) 110 which is a module programmed to answer the particular action made at the action page 102. The action process CGI 110 is operatively coupled to an error page 111 checking 15 an error in answering the action, a confirm page 112 verifying the action for processing the action, an input data 113 storing the user's information carried by the action, and a thanks page 114 for sending back acknowledgements to the user.

The arrangement module 14 generates an index URL which guides the user 20 clicking on the ad space 201 to the entrance page 101 of the advertiser's web site through the agent's server 10 for monitoring the user's access induced by the advertisement. The index URL includes a statement identifying the advertiser's name, the agent, and the APID. The index URL is embedded in the ad space 201 so that an index CGI 61 of the agent's server 10 catches the information of 25 the user clicking on the ad space 201, in addition to the advertiser's name and the APID. One example of the index URL is as follows:

<http://www.actionclic.net/cgi-bin/clientname/index.cgi?MXXXHTA11101120ABCXYZ>
where

"www.actionclic.net/cgi-bin" designates the agent's server;

"clientname" designates the advertiser's name;

"index.cgi" designates the index CGI;

? is a parameter indicator; and

"MXXXHTA11101120ABCXYZ" is a parameter designating the APID.

5 Based upon the advertiser's name and the APID received at index CGI **61**,
the arrangement module **14** identifies an entrance page URL of the entrance
page **101** with reference to the database table **15**. Thus, index CGI **61** is
enabled to redirect the user's response to the entrance page **101** of the
advertiser's web site immediately after receiving the information. Some of the
10 information received at index CGI **61** is stored in an index log file **62** for analysis
of the user's behavior as will be discussed hereinafter. Such information
includes:

- date and time of the user requesting for access to the entrance page;
- a referrer log showing all referring pages from which the user is led to
15 entrance page;
- APID; and optionally
- user's IP address.

Also upon establishment of the advertisement contract, the arrangement
module **14** prepares an action URL and a result URL for linking the entrance
20 page **101** and the action page **102** respectively to an action CGI **63** and result
CGI **64** of the agent's server **10**. Action URL is embedded in a guide object
appearing in the entrance page **101** for inviting the user to the action page **102**
and directing the user's response through action CGI **63** to the action page **102**.

One example of action URL is as follows:

25 <http://www.actionclic.net/cgi-bin/clientname/action.cgi>

where

"www.actionclic.net/cgi-bin" designates the agent's server;

"clientname" designates the advertiser's name; and

"action.cgi" designates the action CGI.

Action CGI 63 catches the information resulting from the user's clicking or the like response to the guide object of the entrance page 101 and stores the information in an action log file 64. The information includes:

- date and time of the user requesting for access to the action page;
- 5 - a referrer log showing all referring pages from which the user is led to the action page; and optionally
- user's IP address.

The data of referring pages are then collated with those obtained at index CGI 61 to identify the origin of the response, i.e., APID since the referring pages carry

10 the index URL of the ad space 201 which is the key for identification of the origin of the response. From this identification, action CGI 63 retrieves an action page URL of the action page 102 and redirects the user's response to the action page 102. Data of the information received at action CGI 63 are stored in an action log file 64 with the APID identified.

15 The result URL is embedded in an action object which is inserted in the action page 102 for access by the user to require one of the defined responses or actions that the advertiser selected to pay for. Further, with action process URL, the user's action made to the action object is directed to the action process CGI 110 through a result CGI 65 of the agent's server 10 for collecting data of the 20 user's action made to the defined response. One example of result URL is as follows:

<http://www.actionclic.net/cgi-bin/clientname/result.cgi>

where

"www.actionclic.net/cgi-bin" designates the agent's server;

25 "clientname" designates the advertiser's name; and
"result.cgi" designates the result CGI.

Result CGI 65 catches the information resulting from the user's clicking or the like response to the action object of the action page 102 and stores the information in an result log file 66. The information includes:

- date and time of the user making the defined action on the action page;
- a referrer log showing all referring pages from which the user is led to action process CGI; and optionally
- user's IP address.

5 The data of referring pages are then collated with those obtained at index CGI **61** to identify the origin of the response, i.e., APID as discussed in the above. From this identification, result CGI **65** retrieves an action process URL of the action process CGI **110** and redirects the user's response thereto. Data of the information received at result CGI **65** are stored in a result log file **66** with the

10 APID identified. The action process CGI **110** responds to give the required answer directly to the user and not through the agent's server.

Since the advertiser's web site may have other pages **103** not linked to the agent's server **10**, it is possible that the user jumps to the entrance page **101** or action page **102** from the other pages and not from the ad space **201**. In this
15 condition, index CGI cannot fetch APID and therefore no APID code is stored in either of the log files **62**, **64**, and **66**. Thus, the absence of APID can makes it possible to discriminate such actions from those originated from the ad space **201** which is to be paid for.

The index CGI **61**, action CGI **63**, result CGI **65** and the associated log files
20 are cooperative to form a response measurement module **60** for providing data of the user's responses or actions induced by the advertisement on the ad space **201**. The database table **15** stores the individual APID, the advertiser's name, the advertisers code, the URLs of the entrance page **101**, action page **102**, action process CGI **120** of the advertiser's web site, the affiliate's code, the affiliate's
25 name, passwords and IDs for the advertisers and the affiliates, cost per response determined by the advertiser, and the other fields for providing corresponding data or relation between these fields in answer to inquiries from the arrangement module **14** or the other modules of the agent's server.

It is noted in this connection that the response measurement module may

include one or more additional result CGIs may be included together with complementary result log files and result URLs when the advertisers selects more than one defined responses to be paid for. The additional result CGI is linked to the action page **102** by way of corresponding result URL so as to count
5 the additional user's response or action made at the action page **102** for storing the additional action process data to the corresponding result log file.

Further included in the server **10** is an administration module **70** having an administer CGI **71** and provides an administer page **72** on the agent's web site. The administer CGI **71** is coupled to the index log file **62**, action log file **64**, and
10 result log file **66** to collect the data therefrom and prepare statistical data with regard to the responses or actions counted at the response measurement module **60**. The statistical data are disclosed in the administer page **72** in various report forms selectively to the advertisers and the affiliates allowed to access. The statistical data include:

- 15 1) a page access number which is the number of the accesses to the entrance page of the advertiser's web site during a predetermined period of time;
- 2) an action access number which is the number of accesses to the action page during the above period of time,
- 3) a result number which is the number of the actions made in response to the
20 action object for necessitating the processing at the action process CGI during the above period of time;
- 4) a proceeder rate which is the ratio of the action access number to the page access number;
- 5) a completer rate which is the ratio of the result number to page access
25 number, and
- 6) a cost table showing a cost payable for the affiliate or for the agent with regard to the actions counted during a predetermined period of time.

The cost is calculated from the counted action and the cost per response determined by the advertiser and stored in the database table **15** as related to

the selected action.

The report forms are classified into a first report format directed to the advertisers and a second report format directed to the affiliates. The first report format includes:

- 5 a) a listing of counted responses on a dairy basis;
- b) a listing of APID (ad spaces) in order of counted responses; and
- c) a listing of any one of the referring pages in order of counted responses for all or any combination of the above statistical data.

The second report format includes:

- 10 a) a listing of the advertisers in order of counted responses for all or any combination of the above listed statistical data; and
- b) a listing of APID (ad spaces) in order of counted responses for all or any combination of the above statistical data.

Selection of the formats is made at the administer page. Also, the administer page **72** includes a button which enables the advertiser and the affiliate to download data of the log files **62**, **64**, and **66** limited to those concerned.

Based upon the statistical report prepared for the individual advertisers and the affiliates, the advertiser can evaluate the effectiveness of the advertisement and the affiliate can charge the advertiser.

20 FIG. 6 shows one example of the report form **80** displayed on the administer page **72** for limited access by the advertiser. The report form includes a period entry **81** for selecting the whole available period or a certain period of the accumulated data in the agent's server **10**. Download section **82** is provided to download data of any one of selected log files **62**, **64**, and **66**. Clicking a download button **83** starts up downloading of the log file data to the advertiser. Further, a view-report section **84** is provided to display the statistical data sorted on the selected items, i.e., APID and referring pages. Clicking on a view button **85** causes a display jump to a statistical report page **86** as shown in FIG. 7. The report page **86** includes a table **87** showing the statistical data on a dairy basis

with a row of the total of page access number, action access number, result number, proceeder rate, and completer rate. The report page **86** also includes a download button **88** which enables the advertiser to download the displayed data.

FIG. 8 shows one example of the report form **90** displayed on the administer page **72** for limited access by the affiliate. The report form **90** includes a period entry **91** for selecting whole available period or a certain period of the accumulated data in the agent's server **10**. Download section **92** is provided to download data of any one of selected log files **62**, **64**, and **66**. Clicking on a download button **93** starts up downloading of the log file data to the affiliate.

Further, a view-report section **94** is provided to display the statistical data sorted on the selected items, i.e., the advertiser's name and APID. Clicking on a view button **95** causes a display to jump to a statistical report page **96** as shown in FIG. 9. The report page **96** includes a table **97** showing the statistical data including page access number, action access number, result number, proceeder rate, and completer rate with regard to the different advertisers. The report page **96** also includes a download button **98** which enables the advertiser to download the displayed data.

It is noted in this connection that the above statistical data may be presented to the advertiser in another report form which lists a ranking of the affiliates in order of counted responses.